

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I announce to my colleagues, if cloture is invoked on the Johnson nomination, we do not expect a vote on the underlying nomination. Also, we do not have a request for a vote on the Portman nomination. Therefore, this may be the last vote of the evening, if cloture is invoked.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized for 3 minutes.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR WARNER

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, as the clock strikes midnight, an historic event will occur for all of us in the Senate, but obviously an important date in the history of Virginia. In all of our history, we have had 51 Senators from the Commonwealth of Virginia, such as John Tyler who became President, and Madison, and many great Senators. A historic achievement is being achieved tonight with my wonderful partner and our colleague, JOHN WARNER, which is a testament to his abilities as a leader and the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Virginia.

Tonight, in fact at this very moment, our wonderful colleague JOHN WARNER surpasses on the all-time list Senator Carter Glass, who served in this body for over 26 years. Senator WARNER's extraordinary term of service is now second to only Harry Byrd in serving in the Senate. He was elected in 1978 and he has spent the last 26 years serving this country.

He is a man who loves his job. He is a man from whom we always learn something new, valuable, insightful, or humorous. He is a unique blend of a military leader, having served in World War II and in Korea.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of his remarks be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. ALLEN. No, I object. He is a country gentleman, a legal scholar, a historian, a great storyteller, and an esteemed statesman, all with the joy of life of a 12-year-old boy. He loves his job. He loves the Senate. And we love him and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN L. JOHNSON TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session, and the clerk will report Calendar No. 61.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen L. Johnson, of Mary-

land, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, as one who grew up in Danville and Roanoke, VA, as one who served in the U.S. Navy with JOHN WARNER as our Secretary of the Navy, I join my friend GEORGE ALLEN and all of you in saluting him. It has been my privilege to serve under him as a naval flight officer for a number of years. It has been my privilege to serve with him and with all of you for about the last 4 years.

During that time I have worked with a number of you on our side and on the Republican side to try to find common ground with respect to issues such as class action, asbestos litigation reform, bankruptcy, the next step in welfare reform, a comprehensive energy policy, a business model for the Postal Service in the 21st century. The list goes on.

As a former Governor, one who used to nominate people to serve in cabinet posts and judgeships, I have generally voted to confirm the men and women President Bush has nominated to serve on his team. In a number of instances I have gone well beyond just voting for a nominee of the President but advocating for them. I will give some examples. Tommy Thompson was nominated for Secretary of Health and Human Services. I called him and said: Congratulations; how can I help you get confirmed and how can I help get your team confirmed? I did the same thing with Tom Ridge when he was nominated for Secretary of Homeland Security. I did the same thing with Christie Whitman when she was nominated for EPA, and I did the same thing for Mike Leavitt when he was nominated to head EPA.

I stand before you tonight taking a different posture. I have never put a hold on any nominee in any time I have served here. It is not in my modus operandi. But I have done it tonight and with a good man, Stephen Johnson, who has been nominated by this President to lead the EPA. I am convinced if he is confirmed, he would do a good job.

I stand here tonight asking that we not confirm him at this time. I will tell you why. For the last 3 years, I have been asking the Environmental Protection Agency to give us comparative data, comparing the President's Clear Skies proposal, the proposal of Senator JIM JEFFORDS, SUSAN COLLINS, and JOE LIEBERMAN, and a bipartisan bill I have introduced with several of you. We have asked for comparative data, modeling that actually says this is what each of the bills will do on the economic front. This is what they would do on the environmental front, and here is what they would do on the public health front.

I made that request first in 2002, again in 2003, again in 2004, and again in 2005. I am not going to go into the litany of responses. My friends, the response has been ultimately dis-

appointing. We have tried to compromise. The administration offered us a deal. We have come back with a counterproposal. We have not been able to find middle ground.

Tonight we end up with a decision to go for cloture. For those of you who are going to vote no on cloture, I say thank you. For those who are going to vote yes, let me say this: My friends, I don't care who is President. I don't care who is running EPA. I don't care who is in the majority here. When we are voting on issues such as clean air or clean water or these kinds of issues and we need good scientific data, by golly, we ought to get it. We should not have to beg for it. I don't care who is running this place. We should get it. We should be able to make these decisions based on good science. That is what I want.

The real tragedy, if Stephen Johnson is confirmed tonight—and I wish him well if he is—is we have missed an opportunity not only to confirm a good man, but we will have missed an opportunity to provide this side with, frankly, the kind of scientific data we can go forward with and actually do a good bill, adopt a good clean air bill that will do a good job in reducing sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury, and slowing the growth of carbon dioxide. We have missed an opportunity if we go forward tonight.

For those who are standing with me, I say thank you. For those who are not, I ask you to remember, someday we will have a Democratic President. Someday we will have a Democratic majority in this Senate. Be careful of the bed that you make, because someday you will get to sleep in it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Stephen Johnson to be Administrator of the EPA. This Senate should vote for cloture and support this nomination.

As chairman of the Oversight of Government Management Subcommittee, I am very interested in the management of our Federal Government. Finding the right people with the right skills to run our Nation's agencies is very important. And President Bush has found the right person to lead the EPA.

Mr. Johnson will be the first career official to hold the position. He has worked at the EPA for 24 years and for 8 of the 9 EPA Administrators. He knows the inner workings and personnel at the agency which may be exactly what is needed to manage it. He has managed virtually every aspect of the agency's rulemaking process.

One of his strongest qualifications is he will be the first professional scientist to be the director of the Environmental Protection Agency. He has already been confirmed twice by the Senate as assistant administrator in 2001 and deputy administrator in 2004. There is a real need at the EPA to have him confirmed. The agency has had four Administrators in 4 years.